# Weekly National Intelligencer.

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# Weekly National Intelligencer.

BY GALES & SEATON.

JAMES C. WELLING, ASSOCIATE EDITOR. The subscription price of this paper for a year is Two DOLLARS, payable in advance.

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THE TWO THEORIES OF RECONSTRUCTION.

The subjoined article, which we copy from neutral paper, the Philadelphia Ledger, states very concisely and clearly the two theories between which the people of this country will be called to choose in proceeding to the task of "reconstructing the Union." Our readers do not need to be informed that, in obedience equally to our convictions of constitutional duty and to evident considerations of political and military expediency, we have uniformly held that the latter of these theories, as expounded by our contemporary, is the only logical one on which the present "war for the Constitution and Union" can be rightfully conduoted, as it is the only one that offers a possible solution of the difficult problem which this nation has to solve if it is to preserve its unity, restore peace within its borders, and maintain the freedom of its institutions.

From the Philadelphia Ledger of August 7th. There are two theories of reconstruction of the Union which arise at the present time, and are being more earnwhich arise at the present time, and are being more earneatly and extensively discussed the nearer the end of the
rebellion appears to be approaching. One is the radical
abolition theory, which declares this rebellion a war in
which States are banded together to destroy the Governwhich States are banded together to destroy the Government, and not that it is merely an insurrection in which the persons in arms are to be regarded as individual violators of the laws, and as such to be preceeded against by the power of the Government. This theory, by treating the States—abstract powers politically—as the ones in rebellion, and not the people in the States, tends necessarily to deprive the States of all rights under the Constitution which they have endeavared to overturn and destroy, by destroying the Government, which proceeds from and is based upon it. The States being really at war with our Government are put in the category of actual belligerents Government are put in the category of actual beligerents just as much so as alien enemies, and are subjected there-fore to the conditions of beligerents, and have only the law. In a just war a beligerent State may be subjugated by a stronger Power. If a State, it may have its political by a stronger Power. If a State, it may have its political sovereignty taken from it, its territory appropriated by the conqueror, and be held at the conqueror's pleasure as a dependency or province, deprived of political independence or rights as a separate or independent Government. In this condition of conquered States, the conqueror may impose new conditions it he pleases as the privilege of re-entering the Union. He may declare that the step precedent to its re-establiahment as a States' power shall be the total and entire abolition of slavery forever, and any State coming back into the Union with this restriction upon its political power would have no right thereafter to declare alavery to be re-established. According to this theory the sub-equent Union wou'd no longer be one of sovereign and equal State powers. The States in rebellion having lost their sovereignty by conquest, would no longer be the equals nor possess the same political rights and powers as the States which conquered them. This theory is so entirely and radically diff rent from the idea of the Union as established by our fathers, and the common idea which prevails of the positical relations of the States and the General Government, reciprocally, that it has not yet made neral Government reciprocally, that it has not jet made much progress except among the extreme New England

has hitherto favored, is that the rebellion is simply an insurrection, a very magnified and extended one, but still one on which the power of the Government is to be brought to bear against the individuals in arms. This theory does not recognize any power of violent separation from the Union by the political action of any State Gov. ernment. All such State action is illegal and void, because a usurpation of powers not possessed by any Stat- under a Union constitutionally formed, and having a Federal Government constitutionally chosen. Under this theory the States remain in their integrity and sovereignty, whatever individuals, even embracing a majority of the popula-tion, may do in opp sition to the laws. The insurgents are simply regarded as a mob, who may usure the control of the Government for a time, and dely the laws, but cannot deprive the Government permanently of its rights and powers, or destroy the validity of the laws. So soon as mob is put down, the power and rights of the State government return of themselves, having only bega held in euspension by violence. According to this theory, if the people in any fitate in rebellion were to overthrow the usurping authorities, and aid the General Government in usurping authorities, and aid the General Government in re-establishing its authority over the State from which it has been excluded by violence, then the State would be reatored immediately, under the Constitution, to the sovereignty, independence, and equality possessed by the other States. The offenders against the laws within its territory may be punished for their crimes either by the State's authority or by the General Government, but the State itself would lose none of its political rights or powers reader the Constitution by reason of the rabellion.

State itself would lose none of its political rights or powers under the Constitution by reason of the rebellion.

The latter theory is the most simple and the most practicable for a reconstruction and re-establishment of the Union, and, if it were not for slavery, it would no doubt be universally adopted. But here comes in the President's proclamation of emanaipation, which, it is contended, conters, absolutely, the right of liberty to slaves in the rebellious States, and which causet be taken from them again by any State restored to the Union. The events which make the reconstruction possible will give greater which make the reconstruction possible will give greater prominence to the discussion of those two distinct and opposite modes of restoring the Union, with its former territorial extent and political importance. Gen. Rosecrans seems to entertain the latter theory as the one by which, as an officer of the Government, c. fled to restore its authority against usurped power, he is to be governed, in relation to the people of the States where the Union arms have successfully prevailed. In his instructions to his officers, and calling upon the people to put themselves on the side of constitutional government, he says: "Remembet, we fight for common rights. What we ask for ourselves we willingly accord to others—freedom under the
Constitution and laws of our country—the country of
Washington and Jackson."

# ABOLITIONISTS NOW FOR THE UNION.

Mr. Wendell Phillips has again delivered himself of his opinions concerning the war and slavery—this time in the shape of a labored letter. He writes to defend the abolitionists for their "change of base." The former disunionism of the abolitionists, he says, in "their effort to break the Union was only a means to an end-the abolition of slavery." Now, however, the aboltionists favor the Union because "to uphold it in this struggle for existence is the readiest way to convert the nation into abolitionists" and same logic Mr. Phillips and his party must now stand velop the best abilities of the nation in the places diate, and total abolition of slavery, he must necessarily oppose that consummation, and resume his original ground of disunion. In all this, Phillips' policy is directly the opposite of the policy of the President, who proclaimed that the Union was the foremost and final object sought for.

It would never have been very safe for Wendell Phillips to take up his abode in Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, or Louisians; but we fear that at the present time, or since these regions and States came within our army hnes, it would be even less safe and comfortable than formerly. For the national authorities there compel white folks to take an oath of allegiance quite incompatible with such sentiments as those ostentationaly avowed by Mr. Phillips,-N. Y. Times.

MAXIMS OF POLITICAL DEGENERACY.

The Pittsburgh Gazette, in its number of the 4th instant, arguing against the expediency of placing Governor CURTIN in nomination for reelection by the Republican party as the Chief Magistrate of Pennsylvania, prefaces its remarks in opposition to that gentleman's candidacy with the following observations:

"The Convention, which meets here to-morrow, will have a grave and delicate task before it. If it represents the popular sentiment wi hany reasonable fairness, it will endeavor to name a candidate who combines the essentia's to success with an ability and honesty which will insure a faithful and favorable administration of the affairs of the State. We do not expect, of course, from this or any other representative body thus selected, either the very ablest or most honest and courageous man in the State. This would be looking for too much in the present condition of poor human nature. The best man is seldom the available one, because he is generally either a reserved or an outspoken man, eschewing politics and courting no-body, because he despises the arts which are supposed to body, because he despises the arts which are supposed to be necessary to secure 'the sweet voices' of the people—or proclaiming on all occasions precisely what he thinks, without fear or favor. Such men are never popular, and never, therefore, acquire that notoriety which is derived from newspaper puffery, which is unquestionably one of the passports to greatness and glory in this country. We must wait a few generations to improve the tone of popular sentiment, and the system of public representation, before we can hope to develop the best abilities of the nation in the places of highest trust.

"Trusting ourselves, therefore, to the times, although there never was an occasion when the country more needed its brightest men, we are not disposed to be unreasonable in our demands. We want a men, however, if we would succeed, of whom at least no evil can be spoken, and for whom every honest man can freely vote, without compromising his conscience or his principles. To take one

promising his conscience or his principles. To take one against whom any solid and well sustained objection, on the score of honesty, can be made, would be to court de-feat, and show that we were indifferent, as well to moral considerations as to the probable effects of such a course. Among the candidates named, we have ourselves, as we Among the candidates named, we have ourselves, as we have more than once remarked, no choice, and no interests to serve. If the privilege were given to us of saying who should be the standard bearer, we should decline it. There is not one of all the candidates whom we have named that we would not take cheerfully, except Gov. Curtin, or one of the associates of Woodward and Lowrie, on the Supreme Bench. Either of these men would be ineligible here and in Western Pennsylvania generally, the first, because of his policy and acts as Governor; and the other, because of disastrous decisions, and acts of high-handed tyranny, which have exasperated and inflamed our people to an inappreciable degree against them. On these points, Lowrie and Woodward will both prove weak and vulnerable, beyond any other men in the State, if the advantage is properly used. Beyond these candidates we are indifferent.

"We trust, however, that nobody in the Convention will

allow himself to be misled by the idea that a man like Curtin, and with such a record as we have shown of him, Curtin, and with such a record as we have shown of him, can be forced upon the people of this county by putting him in nomination against their will. We know what we say, when we give notice to those who may be tempted to this view, that he is so universally believed by the people here to be corrupt—to have sold the State and the party both—and to be any thing but well affected to the National Administration or the truly loyal men at home; they know indeed as well the cort of company he knows and the kind indeed so well the sort of company he keeps, and the kind of influences that have governed him, that we have but given shape and utterance to their invincible repugnance to the man, and done what they desired in endeavoring to save the party, by warning the managers that they must neither touch, taste, or handle any thing so unclean, if they considered the vote of the strongest Republican county is the State or the nation an important one

We have never seen a case in which the degradation of "organized politics," as they have come to be practised in the later days of the Republic, was more painfully illustrated than in the language and attitude of this journal, when propounding the maxims which should govern the representatives of a political party, assembled in Convention for the purpose of selecting a candidate to occupy the highest office in the gift of the people of Pennsylvania. We have nothing to do with the alleg of the Gazette against Governor Curtin, who holds the office he now fills by favor of the party to which the Pittsburgh paper professes to belong, and by which he has just been honored with a renomination in spite of the reflections so injuriously cast on his political consistency and public honesty. But we wish to mark the low stage which our political morals have reached, and the indignity done to our representative institutions, when it can be openly said by a public journal that, as things are in Pennsylvania, it does not expect from any representative body selected as was the Republican Convention which lately met in Pittsburgh, "either the yery ablest or most honest and courageous man in the State." The "best man," it says, "is seldom the available one." because he "despises the arts which are supposed to be necessary to secure 'the sweet voices' of the people," or because he " proclaims on all occasions precisely what he thinks without fear or favor." Our contemporary thinks we must wait "a few generations" to improve the tone of popular sentiment and the system of public representation "before we can hope to develop t'ie best abilities of the nation in the places of highes trust." In the mean time though admitting that "there never was an occasion when the country more needed its brightest men," the Pittsburgh Gazette resignedly says it is "not disposed to be unreasonable in its demands."

It does not expect the ablest and most honest and courageous man to be put in nomination by any representative boo , selected as political conventions now-a-days are, but yet the nominee must not be one "against whom any solid and well-sustained objection, on the score of honesty, can be made," as to select such a man would be to "court defeat" with the same certainty as if the "best man" was nominated. The "best man is seldom the available one," argues the Gazette, but at the same time the candidate must not be notoriously bad in order to secure his election. Men of whom little is known because of the obscurity of their position and the inferiority of their talents, are therefore the men from whom the Pittsburgh Gazette expects to see political candidates selected, until, after the lapse of "a few generations," the tone of popular sentiment and the system of public representation secure abolition. Following out the same line and the shall be so far improved that we may hope to "deready for still another change. For, in case the Union is of highest trust" How many generations it will likely to be restored without the universal, final, imme- take to "develop" this desired consummation if every body in the mean time is disposed to be as "reasonable" in his demands as the Pittsburgh journalist, we should not like to calculate, for it is preeisely such acquiescence in the degrading maxims of organized politics which has brought this cours try to its present low estate. For such a low standard of political morality and dignity one party is not more responsible than another-all have followed too much the promptings of expediency and heeded too little the admonitions of public virtue. But that any should point out the source of the evil and at the same time postpone the duty of amendment for "a few generations"

may well create surprise.

## SPIRIT OF LAWLESSNESS REBUKED.

We have been particularly pleased by the admi-Grand Jury at the opening of the "Court of Gen- expect any representative body, selected as politieral Sessions" in the city of New York on Tues- cal Conventions now-a-days are, to nominate for day last. After alluding to the fact that for some office "the ablest or the most honest and couragemonths past crime has been on the increase in ous man in the State." In the present condition that city, offences against persons and offences and relations of political affairs in the United against property rivalling each other in frequency, States "the best man," added this frank observer. and that beyond all this a general spirit of lawless- is rarely the "available man," because he scorns ness has been spreading through the community, the arts and lacks the subserviency which have bewhich recently found expression in the barbarities come necessary to procure popularity. Conse and depredations of the New York rioters, he pro- quently, our organized politics, as controlled by ceeded to ascertain the causes of these deplorable selfish and designing managers, have come to be phenomena, and to fix the responsibility for them manipulated in the interest of men who have as follows:

"One of the worst signs of the times has been the prevalent disregard of and want of respect for the laws and the lawfully constituted authorities. Dangerous men-dangerous because powerful and influential—have, by example and precept, taught the people to disregard an disobey constitutional and legal obligations, and, sometime upon one pretext and sometimes upon another, have countenanced (if they have not counselled) disobedience and resistance. They have aimed their shafts not only at legislative / uncluments and constitutional provisions, but at the officers of the law, the judges of the land, and the decisions of the counts.

"As in time of war every man becomes a military critic and sits in judgment upon the operations of our army and plans of a campaign, so every one has become an expounder of the Constitution and the laws, and assumes to sit in judgment upon the judicial tribunals of the State and

"The people have become accustomed to look upon constitutions and laws and authorities as less sacred than in earlier days they had been taught to believe they were. The pulpit and press, the political platform and Senate chamber, the social circle, and perhaps even sometimes the courts themselves, have been the schools in which these pernicious lessons have been taught.

"Manifestations of popular violence, sometimes in on "Manifestations of popular violence, sometimes in one direction and sometimes in another, sometimes against men of one sect of opinions and sometimes against those of another, have from time to time occurred in this city and elsewhere. When applauded they have been applauded loudly; when condemned they have been condemned feebly. Now one set of partisans and now another have spoken of them as 'just outbreaks of popular milignation' or 'patriotic uprisings of the people.

"Conservative and prudent men have watched the growth of this evil with alarm, and foreseen and dreaded the harvest. They saw that it was in violation of and in

growth of this evil with alarm, and foreseen and dreaded the harvest. They saw that it was in violation of and in hostility to the fur damental principles upon which all government and all society rests. They have sought to remind those in authority and those having influence that it was their solemn duty to inspire the people with respect for all law, by never deviating from it themselves; and to make the people understand that obedience to law was the first duty of the citizen. They have proclaimed that, as there was no safety for the nation except in a faithful adherence to the Constitution, so there was no security. adherence to the Constitution, so there was no security for the people but in unbending respect for and obedience to the laws and the authorities of the land. Warning the legislative power of the State and Nation against the enactment of unconstitution. I laws, they have insisted, and ever will insist, that the courts, and not the people, are to sit in judgment upon the constitutionality of an act, and that, until declared by the courts to be unconstitutional, resistance to it by force and violence is existence.

that, until declared by the courts to be unconstitutional, resistance to it by force and violence is criminal.

"These warnings have not been heeded. The evil teachings of misguided and wicked men have not been without their effect. They have taken deep root in the popular mind. Infidelity, to constitutional and legal obligations has produced its brood of evils. This infidelity and the false teachings and examples of partisans of various sects and parties—aided as they have been by causes and elements which are always actively at work in time of war and civil convulsions—urged on by the spirit of law'essness which they have created, have recently produced in this city an detereak which resulted in violence and enormities without a parallel in the history of the country. The immediate cause of this was opposition to the enforcement of the conscription law; but this cause would have been wholly inadequate to the result if the poison of constitutional and loyal infidelity and of false teachings and permicious example had not been infused into the popular mind."

We announced on Thursday last the success of the Union Democratic ticket" for State officers in Ken neky, and the election of the nominees of this party for Congress in nearly all the districts. Gen. BRAMLETTE. the candidate of the "Union Democrats" for the office of the candidate of the "Union Democrats" for the office of management a masterpiece of human wit. They know Governor, was opposed by the Hon. C. A. Wickliffe, the better at the South. Through all the illusions and falsenominee of the "Demograts." The two candidates equal ly professed all-giance to the Constitution and Union, and equally avowed their opposition to the " radical measures' of the Administration in the conduct of the war. Gen Bramlette, in a speech delivered a few days before the election, thus stated the points of agreement between the two parties :

"The evils resulting from the acts of the Federal Ad ministration we desire to correct by the ballot-box. We may not accomplish this soon in the present distracted condition of our country. The withdrawal of the Senators and Representatives from eleven States lost us the power and Representatives from eleven States lost us the power to control measures for the prosecution of the war, and placed us in the hands of a majority opposed to us. We are opposed to these measures, and so are our opponents. We wish, while putting into operation every peaceful means of correction, to correct them by a certain, radical, and perfect remedy, but they avoid the issue; and if they mean any thing by the cry of no more men and no more money, they mean a surrender to the Confederacy, and take a round-about way to say that secession shall prevail. This is axiomatic, for we are all agreed in opposi-tion to the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, the conscription bill, the emancipat on proclamation, the con-fiscation bill, and the arming of negro regiments. We all lesire to get rid of them."

The point upon which the two parties differed, it will be seen, was as to the support they should give to the warthe "Union Demograts" being in fayor of its vigorous prosecution, in order that all obnoxious " war measures" might the sooner come to an end in the end of the war. But it cannot be denied that our organized politics if they could not be sooner corrected by public opinion speaking through the ballet-box, and the "Democrata proper being in favor of withholding all supplies of men and money from the Administration until these "radical measures" shall be reversed.

The Louisville Journal, the chief organ of the "Union entitled. Democracy" in Kentucky, speaks as follows in "defining' its position :

"The platform of the Union Democracy of Kentucky is the platform of the Northern Democracy, as represented by Governor Seymour. Every member of the Union State ticket stands squarely upon this platform, and within the sphere of his lawful power will execute the platform to

The New York Times, in commenting on the result

the election in Kentucky, says; "Gen. Smith is probably the only member of Congress elected in Kentucky that will prove a thorough going supporter of the Administration—unless perchance Mr Casey, late member from a Western district, should slip in. Nevertheless, all the candidates on the Union ticket are Nevertheless, all the candidates on the Union licket are understood to have been pledged to an unconditional support of the war until the rebellion is suppressed. Every candidate supported by the Louisville Journal is elected, except Mr. Menzies, in the Covington district. The Journal's loyalty is, therefore, a fair exponent of the State's."

The Boston Daily Advocate, in commenting on the r sult of the canvass in Kentucky, says that-

"The value of this election as an exact gauge of public opinion in Kentucky has probably been somewhat impair-ed by Gen. Burnside's order proclaiming martial law."

SOLDIERS VOTING .- The judiciary of New Hampshire have declared that the soldiers' voting proposition, which had been passed by the Republican Legislature of that State, is opposed to the spirit of the Constitution as well as the common law, which requires the presence of the voters at the polls. Several practical objections to the bill are also mentioned in the opinion. The opinion is signed by Chief Justice Bell, and Associate Justices Bellows Nesmith, and Bartlett.

### "LET THE BEST SERVE."

We referred a few days ago to the confession rable charge of Recorder Hoffman, delivered to the made by a Pennsylvania journal, that it did not escaped observation by the obscurity of their position or the mediocrity, not to say the inferiority of their talents. Individually shrewd in the management of their private affairs, the American people, by suffering the legitimate control of their political concerns to slip from their hands into those of professional experts and demagogues, have suffered a maladministration of their public affairs which reflects but little credit on their collective wisdom. In no country is there an equal amount of individual intelligence. In no country is this individual intelligence less capable of being collectively wielded and wisely applied for the practical purposes of government. The evil is confessed on all sides, and it is one which, by the perverted usages of party, has come to be inveterate.

> We cited's few days ago the testimony of the Pittsburgh Gazette in attestation to this deplorable fact. In a recent number of the Boston Daily Advertiser a correspondent signalizes the same lamentable deterioration of our politics in the following words:

> "We are a people wonderfully endowed, mightier in transformations than the Wizard of the North. G ve us the raw material, and that too, of the rawest—weak, per-haps, and rotten withal—it is all we ask. Quick as thought, by the magic of our institutions, behold generals, states-mes, and foreign ministers. And why not? For no reason whatever, provided that this mode of production proves safe, economical, and expedient; provided that it gives us ture of our affairs, we cannot well dispense.

> "Our former copartner, now our foe, has long adopted a different system, the results of which we have grouned under for a generation and more. Tais is no time for clinging to mere theories of government, right or wrong. We must look to practical issues. Democracy has played her low cards long enough. She must play trumps now or lose the game. She wants men to represent her, men to lead her, not swarms of interwrithing worms to batten on her entrails. It is perilous to deal in figures of speech, and we would fain do honor to the ability, the fidelity, the patriotism which some of those in offices of trust have put forth in this dire exigency. There is good coinage in the public treasury, but not enough of it, nor of the highest alloy, while the base and the counterfeit are heaped there by the cartload.

> such a people so led, or rather so entangled in such a po-litical meshwork. We have no allusion to this party or that. Men and parties will change, but the same bad system rules rampant over all. Still the same withering machinery of caucuses and conventions, the same combi-nations, wheel within wheel, of adreit and selfish mannations, wheel within wheel, of adroit and selfish managers, the same organized scramble of mean men for petty
> spoils, clogging the avenues and outlets of public opinion,
> jealously vigilant of the rostrum and the press, and limiting the votes of an acquiescent people to such candidates
> as may suit, not the national interests, but their own. As
> freemen and rovereigns we go to the polls and cast our
> votes, not after our own judgment, but at the dictation of can neither esteem nor trust. If we did otherwise, our

> vote would be thrown away. A many-headed despotism, exercised in the name of the largest liberty. If to degrade public morals, sink the national reputation, weaken the national counsels, root out the race of statemen, and place a pliant incompetency in control of our destinies— if these are the ends of government, then is our politica hoods with which that fierce and selfish aristocracy has encompassed itself, ruos a vein of sound political truth. We may take a lesson of our enemy. If we do not, he

> " Perhaps we have misunderstood the nature of a true democracy. It is a thriftless household that chooses for itself servants untaught and untrusted; yet, far more than any bousehold, a great and mighty nation has the necessity and the right of being well and truly served. The wisest and the able t are not too good for her, and her freedom consists in holding them under a sharp accountability, not in degrading them till they are unfit to do her work 'Let the best rule,' is the maxim of aristocracy. 'Let the best serve,' is the maxim of the only healthful and permanent democracy.

" Who are the best? They are gone ; their race has died out. Surely as effect follows cause, for a half century, they have withered and dwindled away. The race, we mean, of legislators and statesmen, minds trained to apply great principles to practice, to grapple with great affairs, to guide the nation with a wise and temperate vigor along the girdy heights of that grand destiny which awaited her, and perhaps awaited her in vain. When will such men return? When a deep and abiding sense of our deep need of them has seized and possessed the national heart; when the fallacies that have deluded us so long shall be thrown from us as debasing and perilous illusions, and the national mind rises to a true conception of republican freedom.

The writer is perhaps too trenchant and sweeping in his criticisms when he supposes that the race of statesmen "has died out" in this country have repressed their growth, by excluding them from the field in which they are nurtured, and by withholding from our most enlightened and experienced statesmen the honors to which they were

Nor is it true that "they know better at the South." The present condition of the Southern people reflects but little hour on the collective wisdom which has suffered itself to be deluded by the promises and allured by the baits of disunion agitators. Nor are the comments of their "candid observers" much more flattering than those of our own The Georgia Constitutionalist, a "Democratic" paper, in commenting a few days ago on the project of establishing an Imperial Government in Mexico, held the following language:

"With our experience running through scarcely three enerations, it is a matter of grave doubt with many of cour brightest and best minds whether democracy is the best form of government tor any people. To say the least, our experience certainly is not such as should induce us to desire other people to model their Governments after ours; or to desire it so strongly that we would make any objection to their trying a different form."

This confession is equally remarkable for what it states and for what it omits. Bearing witness to the evils that afflict the land, it assumes that they result from the mere "form of our Government," whereas, alike in the North and in the South, this common experience results from the common depravation of our politics. Our "institutions" are good enough, or were good enough before they had been perverted by those into whose hands "political management" has fallen.

# NAVAL EXPEDITION UP JAMES RIVER.

### TORPEDO EXPLOSION.

FORTRESS MONROE, Aug. 9 - The expedition that left ere on the 4th instant, under the direction of Major Gen. foster, was accompanied by the turret iron-clad Sangamon and gunboats Commodore Barney and Cohaeset.

They proceeded up the James river, and when abo lity Point and within about seven miles of Fort Darling, t a point called Dutch Gap, a torpedo was exploded under the bows of the Commodore Barney by a lock string onnecting with the shore.

The explosion is described as most terrific, lifting th ows of the Commodore Barney completely out of the water full ten feet, and throwing a great quantity of water high into the air, which fell upon the deck of the boat, washing overboard fifteen of her men, smong whom was Lieut. Cushing, the commander of the Commodore Barney. Two of their number (sailors) were drowned. The others were all saved. Major Gen. Foster was upon this boat when the explosion took place.

The enemy then opened on them from shore with twelveounder field-pieces. Some fitteen shot penetrated the Barney, beside a great number of musket balls, but not a man was injured except the paymaster, slightly, with

The gunboat Cohasset received five twelve-pound shots, one passing through the pilot-house, killing the commander, Acting Master Cox. The shot struck him in the back killing him instantly.

The Commodore Barney was towed down to Newport News by a tug, and will be repaired.

The object of the reconnoiseance was accomplished and he fleet has returned

The new army gunboat General Jesup, commanded by Lieut. Col. Whipple, also accompanied the expedition, and received several shots, but was not much injured.

### OPERATIONS IN THE WEST.

CAIRO, Aug. 9.—The Mississippi river will soon be clear of every organized rebel force. Gen. Davidson is marching down the centre of Arkansas, and in several little affairs with the enemy has been entirely successful The people of Jacksonport are said to be fleeing before his approach.

Another expedition is on the point of starting into this Western country, which will help to complete the work of crushing the rebellion. It is not proper to speak of it a detail at present, but it cannot be long before this en- dozen skeleton negro regiments are organizing. ire scope of territory will be under Federal control.

The Atlanta Appeal urges guerrilla operations on the Mississippi river, and says a systematized plan of operations on its banks will accomplish more than can otherwise be devised to cripple the General Government. It wants to see travellers on the Father of Waters attacked by bu-hwhackers from every canebrake and bluff below

### THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON.

Correspondence of the New York Times. HILTON HEAD, (S. C.) AUGUST 5, 1863. The preparations for renewing the attack on Fort Wagner are progressing as and rapidly favorably as could be desired There is not an officer or private in the entire Department who is not sanguine of the fall of Fort Wagner on the renewal of the assault. The same buoyant feeling is also shared by the naval officers, many of whom are positive in their belief that Charleston will be in our possession before the close of the summer months. Within the past three days General Gilmore has added numerous and heavy guns to his line of attack, and the uncessing toil day and a different character will soon commence. It would, perhaps, be superfluous to add that reinforcements have been arriving at Morris Island since the late fight, so that the strength of the enemy, when the next battle occ be severely tested. These reinforcements are greatly needed, as many of the soldiers who have been digging in the trenches and attending to other duties are completely worn

out from continued exposure and labor.

The public may rest assured that the heavy ordnance now trained and to be trained on Forts Sumter and Wagner will be manned by men who have been educated to the business. About 300 marines, under command of Major Jacob Z d in, came in to day from New York. The Forty-eighth New York regiment proceeded to St. Augustine, (Fis.) on the 29th of July. That has been the

only important mi itary change of late. FROM CHARLESTON AND NORTH CAROLINA. FORTRESS MONROE, AUGUST 10 .- All of the Rebel fficers and surgeons confined as prisoners of war in Fort

Norfolk-upwards of one hundred and twenty-five-are being transferred to Fort Mc Henry. The steamer Nelly Pentz arrived this morning from Stono Inlet. Captain Paillips reports that he left there last Friday, at which time the siege was favorably progressing, and the officers and men are in fine spirits. No

news of importance to report. The steamer Peconic arrived from Beaufort to-day, and rings a mail. The following is received from our corr

NEWBERN, August 9-The Unionists in Eastern North Carolina are to hold in a few days a great mass con-North Carolina are to hold in a lew days a government to cention for the purpose of invoking the Government to send a sufficient force into this Department to occupy Raleigh, Wilmington, and Weldon, in order to force the Rebel army to abanden Virginia, and thus restore these two great States to the Union at once."

# LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

ST. JOHNS, (N. F.) Aug. 8.-The steamship Chins from Liverpool August 1st, via Queenstown August 2d, passed Cape Race at noon to-day, en route to New York. She was intercepted by the news yacht of the Associated

The steamship Asia, from Boston, arrived at Queenstown on the 2d instant.

In the absence of fresh advices from America the Eng sh journals have little to say on American affairs. The London Morning Post labors to show that the recent Federal successes are not likely to prove materially

advantageous to the Federals. The Army and Navy Gazette takes a most gloomy view of the mi itary prospects of the Confederates. It says the retrest of Gen. Bragg and the flight of Gen. Johnston before Gen. Sherman's forces show sufficient signs of exhaustion. It adds, "Charleston is in real danger, and if it falls Savannah follows." Still it thinks that the Federal armies cannot be filled without a conscription, which may palsy the North and wrest victory from her grasp.

The Confederate loan was heavy at seventeen to fifteen discount.

English political news, as usual on the close of Parlin nent, is quiet and lifeless.

Sir Crescent, the well known judge, is dead. The war panic on the Polish question has subsided. The ournals speculate on the response of the three Powers to Prince Gortschakoff's note. Nothing reliable in regard to

responses had transpired. The Polish insurgents keep ac-

New York, Aug. 11 .- The steamship China has ar

rived. Her news has been anticipated. Gen. Forey, it is stated by La France, will leave Mexico on the 15th of September, giving up the command to Gen.

The same paper says that the negotiation between the three Powers for a common reply to Russia is on the point placing in question all the interests of Europe.

# PUNISHMENT OF REBEL SYMPATHIZERS

PROCLAMATION OF GEN. MEADE.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

August 10, 1863.

The following proclamation has been issued by Majo General MEADE:

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, The numerous depredations committed by citizens, or rebel soldiers in disgulse harbored or concealed by citizens, along the Orange and Alexandria railroad, and within our lines, call for prompt and exemplary punishment.

Under the instruction of the Government, therefore, every citizen sgainst whom there is sufficient evidence of

bis having engaged in these practices will be arrested and confined for punishment or sent beyord the lines.

The people within ten miles of the railroad are notified that they will be held responsible in their persons and property for any it jury done to the trains, road, depot, or stations by citizens, guerrillas, or persons in disguise; and in case of such injury they will be impressed as laborers to reasir all degrees.

opair all damages.

If these measures should not stop such depredations, it will become the unpleasant duty of the undersigned, in the execution of his instructions, to direct that the entire inhabitants of the district of country along the railroad be put across the lines and their property taken for Government purposes.

Major General Commanding.

The depredations having been continued, a number of citizens, suspected or known to be implicated in the transactions, have been arrested.

### ARRIVAL FROM NEW ORLEANS.

New York, Aug. 7 .- The steamer George Washingon, from New Orleans on the 1st instant, h s arrived at this port. She passed on the 4th instant the steam sloop of war Richmond, bound North. Among her passingers s Brig. Gen. Dwight.

Ex-Mayor Stith, of New Orleans, had arrived there, having been released from Fort Pickens; and ex-Sanator Leefe. They had been at Fort Pickens since last Septem-

Gen. Herron's command had arrived at New Orleans. The flagship Tennessee had arrived at New Orleans with arge numbers of invalids from the rebel garrison at Vicksburg, and some fifty registered from St. Louis. Her destination is Mobile. She reports that the new Monitor Neosho was at Vicksburg. The Osage was soon expected.

The Choctaw and Pittsburg are blockading the river. It is stated that an important military and naval expedition is on foot at Vicksburg under Gen. Grant. Some

# DEPREDATIONS NEAR WASHINGTON.

On Thursday last a wagon train, consisting of about wenty teams, was captured by a party of guerrillas, some distance this side of Fairfax Court-house. Upon information being given at the nearest post, a portion of our cavalry started out in pursuit and recaptured the whole the train, the enemy dispersing as soon as the cavalry came in sight. The depredations in the vicinity of Washington have become very frequent of late, and would seem to call for repression by the exercise of greater vigilance on the part of the officers charged with the defence of the utposts between here and Manassas.

# FROM MEXICO.

Vera Cruz advices of the 16th of July report the death of the American Consul on the 13th.

No American or English vessels of war were on the coast, and the French vessels were said to be seizing all ressels. English or American. On the 8th, a French sidewheel steamer arrived at Vera Cruz with an English topsail schooner in tow, which was captured in the Rio Grande with a cargo of arms valued at \$300,000, intended for the night of the men upon the trenches, indicates that work of Texas rebels, though the steamer cleared from Liverpool for Matamoras. Her officers report five more vessels loading for Matamoras.

# A MILITARY TRANSPORT IN DISTRESS.

PHILADELPHIA, AUGUST 8 -The steamboat Commo ore, from New York for Providence, with the Fortysecond Massachusetts Regiment on board, went ashore on Sunday morning northwest of Point Judith lighthouse. The steamer Delaware, from Providence for Roundout, went to her assistance, and was lying at anchor near ber. On heading south a boat from shore reported that she had sent to Newport for assistance

# REBELS RECEIVING SUPPLIES

A despatch dated Newbern, August 6th, says that the enemy are daily receiving supplies into their ports notwithstanding the blockade. Among the articles they are receiving are machinery, railroad iron, guns, blankets, medicines, shoes, &c.

ADMIRAL FARRAGUT AT NEW YORK. NEW YORK, AUG. 10 .- The United States steam fri-

gate Hartford, Admiral Farragut, of the Mississippi Squadron, arrived here to-night. Salutes were fired from the forts at the Narrows, from Quarantine, Fort Wood, Fort Columbus, and from various French, Spanish, and American men-of-war in the harbor.

# MORGAN'S OFFICERS.

CINCINNATI, Aug 8 .- One hundred and twenty-three of John Morgan's officers have been sent from Johnson's Island to Harrisburg, to be confined in the penitentiary

### MOVEMENTS OF GEN. McCLELLAN. It having been telegraphed that Gen. McCielian would

arrive at Sag Harbor, Long Island, on the 7th instant, on his way to East Hampton, where he proposes passing a couple of weeks with his family, hasty preparations were made for his reception at the former place. The few yessels in port hoistedtheir flags and the wharf was crowded with spectators.

On landing the General was received with repeated and hearty cheers, and he had difficulty in extricating himself from the congratulations with which he was followed. The stage in which he had taken his seat was at last suffered to proceed, but it had not moved more than a dozen yards when it was again stopped by a returned volunteer, who had fought under the General at Fair Oaks, and who, after addressing him some words of congratulation and encouragement, would up with an energetic demand for "Three cheers more for our General," which, it is needless to add, were given. The vehicle was then allowed to proceed, the groups along the main street cheering as it passed. Among the significant features of this reception was the hearty participation in it of several leading Republicans who had formerly distinguished themselves by their hostility to McClellan.

The Secretary of War has directed that three South Carolina prisoners of war be subjected to close confinement and held as hostages for three colored men captured on the gunboat Isaac Smith and now imprisoned at

### Charleston THE DRAFT IN THIS DISTRICT.

The draft for the District of Columbia was continued and conc'uded yesterday, embracing the enrolled names of the cit zens of the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelith Sub-districts. The Eighth and Ninth Sub-districts include the whole city of Georgetown, and the Tenth. Eleventh, and Twelfth comprise the residue of the District of Columbia. Of the number drawn in the city of Georgetown 390 are white and 65 colored. In the remaining sub-districts the whole number of persons drafted amounts to 350. Thus the draft for this District has been finished. three Powers for a common reply to Russia is on the point of successful termination. La France does not despair of Russia proving conciliatory. Should she, however, be otherwise disposed, the consequence would be a general war, wise disposed, the consequence would be a general war, exemption.

promoter / + toposets